

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the December 13, 2005 Final Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified patent application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended as indicated above. Also, dependent claims 32 and 33 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis as a result of the amendments to claims 1 and 20. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner review and consider the foregoing amendments in view of the following remarks.

The present invention is directed to a blanket which is convertible into a stuffed toy and which is equipped with a hood. The convertible blanket includes fastening means to secure the blanket around a user's shoulders, as is depicted in FIG. 6 of the specification and described on page 8, lines 1-2. The convertible blanket of the present invention is easily stored in a pocket that may also take the form of a stuffed toy. When unfolded, the blanket may be used as a sleeping bag, blanket, or cape with a hood and fasteners. The hood is easily stored in its own pocket so that it is out of the way when not in use. The hood and fasteners allow the blanket to provide extra warmth, and to provide the advantage of remaining secured around the wearer's body when the wearer is in a sitting or standing position, without the need for the wearer to hold the blanket in place with the wearer's hands.

As is now recited in amended independent claim 1, the convertible blanket includes a blanket pocket of a size to receive the blanket for storage. The blanket also comprises a hood attached to the blanket, a hood storage pocket attached to the blanket and sized to receive the hood for storage, and fastening means to secure the blanket around a user's shoulders.

Amended independent claim 20 is directed to a convertible blanket in the form of a substantially rectangular area of fabric. A blanket pocket is attached to the blanket and sized for

receiving the blanket, with the blanket pocket being visually appealing in shape and color. The blanket also includes a hood attached to the blanket, a hood storage pocket attached to the blanket and being of a size to receive the hood for storage, and fastening means to secure the blanket around a user's shoulders.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 16-31 have been rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,774,734 (Mills). Claims 9-14 have been rejected as allegedly rendered obvious from Mills, claim 15 stands rejected as allegedly rendered obvious from the combination of Mills and U.S. Patent No. 5,920,931 (Zuehlke), and claims 32 and 33 stand rejected as allegedly rendered obvious from the combination of Mills and U.S. Patent No. 5,588,749 (Ishikawa). It is believed that the claims, as now amended, are patentable over the cited references.

Turning first to Mills, this reference teaches a sleeping bag which may be converted into a child's pillow or toy. The sleeping bag includes an enlarged pocket of sufficient size to permit the sleeping bag to be pulled therethrough such as to resemble a stuffed toy. Mills does not teach or suggest the use of a hood attached to the blanket, or the use of a hood storage pocket attached to the blanket. Nor does it teach "fastening means to secure the blanket around a user's shoulders" as is now recited in amended claims 1 and 20. Thus, claims 1 and 20, as now amended, are not anticipated by Mills. Moreover, because Mills does not disclose, a hood, a hood storage pocket, or fastening means, claims 1 and 20, and their respective dependent claims, are not rendered obvious by Mills.

As for Zuehlke, this reference teaches a pillow blanket which includes a pocket to allow the blanket to be stuffed therein. Like Mills, this reference also does not disclose a hood attached to the blanket, a hood storage pocket to receive the hood, and fastening means to fasten the blanket around

a user's shoulders. Thus, the combination of Zuehlke and Mills does not rendered any of the claims, as now amended, obvious.

Lastly, Ishikawa discloses a "multifunctional bag" which includes a sheet and a hood. However, Ishikawa does not teach or suggest the inclusion of a hood storage pocket attached to the sheet or fastening means to secure the sheet around a user's shoulders. Accordingly, the combination of Ishikawa with either or both of Zuehlke and Mills, does not render the amended independent claims unpatentable due to obviousness.

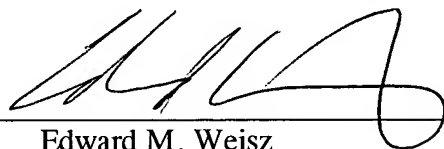
Because none of the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, teach or suggest the convertible blanket as now claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 20, it is believed that those claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. Moreover, because independent claims 2-19 and 21-33 depend from the independent claims, it is believed that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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